



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

### ***POTENTILLA BREVIFOLIA*** **SHORT-LEAVED CINQUEFOIL**

Short-leaved Cinquefoil is a low perennial from a branched rootstock, with few-many flowering stems 5-20 cm tall, and arising from rootstocks and trailing scaly branches that form mats up to 20 cm in diameter. Foliage is finely glandular hairy. The petioles of the basal leaves are longer than the blades, and the blades are pinnately compound. The 3-7 crowded leaflets are circular to fan shaped, usually 6-10 mm long, shallowly cut, and have scalloped margins. The openly branched inflorescence bears flowers that have a green 5-lobed calyx with a small appendage on each lobe, 5 yellow petals that are longer than the calyx lobes, usually 20 stamens, and numerous pistils. Each pistil has a single slender style attached to the upper part of the ovary. Flowering in August.

Distinguished from other Montana *POTENTILLA* by the combination of the perennial mat-forming habit, finely glandular-hairy foliage, short pinnate leaf blades, and a style attached between the middle and top of the ovary.